

From: Rick Wittstruck
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In regards to Microsoft settlement,

I feel that Microsoft has clearly abused its monopoly power over the computer industry and harmed U.S. consumers. Microsoft has been found to be at fault in a court of law, and now it's time to determine the penalty. The individual consumer has little ability to protect themselves against gigantic corporations with billions of dollars in the bank. That's where the U.S. government comes into the picture.

You are the only hope of the U.S. citizen in protecting fair commerce. If the U.S. government willing lets corporations have their way (and many people already think this is happening) then the government may find someday that the great unwashed masses have turned against it. We pay taxes for a government that represents the citizens, not corporations. In the most recent presidential election, approx. 50 million voted Democratic and another 50 million voted Republican. Those are large numbers of voters, but even the combined number of voters of approx. 100 million is smaller than approx. 180 million Americans who chose not to vote. Letting Microsoft off the hook will not do much to convince Americans that their government is OF, BY, and FOR the people, not corporate profits. The U.S. government works for its citizens, and if the courts have found Microsoft business practices harmful to citizens, then punishment is required. Do NOT backpedal, debate, or appease Microsoft. They are so feared by competitors that some refuse to comment on Microsoft's business practices! This is not the American way of doing business, by any stretch of the imagination.

Firmly believe Microsoft should be PUNISHED to the full extent,
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